

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED SECRETARY OF  
STATE BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the conduct of elections, including voting  
2 centers and pilot programs.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 49.11, subsection 3, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) ~~Establish voting centers for the regular city election,~~  
4 ~~city primary election, city runoff election, regular school~~  
5 ~~election, and special elections. Any registered voter who~~  
6 ~~is eligible to vote in the regular city election may vote~~  
7 ~~at any voting center in the city. Any registered voter who~~  
8 ~~is eligible to vote at the regular school election may vote~~  
9 ~~at any voting center in the school district. Any registered~~  
10 ~~voter who is eligible to vote in a special election may vote~~  
11 ~~at any voting center established for that special election~~  
12 any election in accordance with rules adopted by the state  
13 commissioner pursuant to chapter 17A. For purposes of section  
14 48A.7A, a voting center shall be considered the polling place  
15 for the precinct in which a person resides.

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **53.2A Absentee voting pilot programs.**

17 1. The state commissioner may adopt rules pursuant to  
18 chapter 17A to implement the following pilot programs:

19 a. Allowing any registered voter who is indefinitely  
20 confined because of age, physical illness, or infirmity, or  
21 is disabled for an indefinite period, to request an absentee  
22 ballot be sent to the registered voter automatically for every  
23 election that the registered voter is eligible to participate  
24 in within the same calendar year in which the application is  
25 filed.

26 b. Implementing a remote accessible vote by mail system.  
27 For purposes of this paragraph, "*remote accessible vote by mail*  
28 *system*" means a mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic  
29 system and its software that is used for the sole purpose of  
30 marking an electronic vote by mail ballot for a voter with  
31 disabilities who shall print the paper cast vote record to be  
32 submitted to an election office.

33 c. Allowing any registered voter who is indefinitely  
34 confined because of age, physical illness, or infirmity, or is  
35 disabled for an indefinite period, to submit an absentee ballot

1 request by electronic means.

2 2. If a pilot project is not implemented statewide, the  
3 pilot project shall include sufficient counties, as determined  
4 by the state commissioner, to conclude whether the program is  
5 feasible statewide.

6 3. The state commissioner shall file a report with the  
7 general assembly by the first day of the regular legislative  
8 session of each year detailing pilot programs under this  
9 section implemented in the previous calendar year.

10 4. This section is repealed July 1, 2023.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill relates to the conduct of elections.

15 The bill removes language relating to the establishment of  
16 voting centers by county commissioners of elections. The bill  
17 directs the state commissioner of elections to adopt rules  
18 regarding under which circumstances a county commissioner of  
19 elections may establish a voting center.

20 The bill allows the state commissioner of elections to  
21 adopt rules for the establishment of pilot programs allowing  
22 indefinitely confined or disabled persons to submit one  
23 absentee ballot request for all elections in a given year,  
24 creating a remote vote by mail system for use by disabled  
25 persons, and allowing any registered voter to electronically  
26 submit an absentee ballot request. The bill requires the state  
27 commissioner of elections to file a report with the general  
28 assembly by the first day of the regular legislative session  
29 of each year regarding pilot programs adopted in the previous  
30 calendar year. This section of the bill is repealed effective  
31 July 1, 2023.